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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/023,969 | 12/17/2001 | John M. Irving | 084/002 | 6623 |
| 22869 | 7590 | 10/10/2003 | EXAMINER: | |
| GERON CORPORATION 230 CONSTITUTION DRIVE MENLO PARK, CA 94025 | | | WINKLER, ULRIKE | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 1648 | |

DATE MAILED: 10/10/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action

Application No.

10/023,969

Applicant(s)

IRVING ET AL.

Examiner

Ulrike Winkler

Art Unit

1648

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 20 July 2003 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) The period for reply expires ____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
 - (a) they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: ____.

3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): ____.
4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) ____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: ____.
6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: 4 and 17.

Claim(s) objected to: ____.

Claim(s) rejected: 1-3,7,9-11 and 16.Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: 5, 6, 12-15, 18-25.

8. The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.

9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). ____.

10. Other: ____.

Art Unit: 1648

It is noted that the Final Office action made a typographical error by noting 35 U.S.C. §102 rejections under the 35 U.S.C. §103 heading, however, the formulation of the rejections indicated an obvious type rejection based on the combination of references. In addition, all prior 35 U.S.C. §102 rejections had been withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendments to the claims in amendment A of May 5, 2003 (Paper No. 8). Because of Applicant's amendments to the claims in Paper No. 8, additional references may be used in the Final Office action even though the references had been available at an earlier time. Therefore, Applicant's assertion that the finality of the last Office action was improper is not convincing.

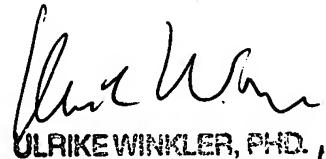
Applicant's arguments filed July 29, 2003 (Paper No. 10) have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's argue that the Pham et al. reference has a different goal from the instant invention and therefore would work against the intended purpose. The rationale to modify or combine the prior art does not have to be expressly stated in the prior art; the rationale may be expressly or impliedly contained in the prior art or it may be reasoned from knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, established scientific principles, or legal precedent established by prior case law. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this instance the Pham et al. reference observed that HCMV IE2 complements E1A deleted adenovirus and its expression kills cell lines (i.e. has cytopathic effect), indicating that the HCMV IE2 can function to replace the E1A of adenovirus. Therefore one of ordinary skill in the art would have a high expectation of success in producing a replication competent adenovirus by substituting the HCMV IE2 for the adenovirus E1A gene based on the observation that the HCMV IE2 can complement this function in a E1A deleted adenovirus.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ulrike Winkler, Ph.D. whose telephone number is 703-308-8294. The examiner can normally be reached M-F, 8:30 am - 5 pm. The examiner can also be reached via email [ulrike.winkler@uspto.gov].

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Housel, can be reached at 703-308-4027.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-4242 or for informal communications use 703-746-3162.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.


ULRIKE WINKLER, PH.D.
PATENT EXAMINER
10/10/03